To: Edgar Tatro
From: Bill Cheslock
Re: Notes on "Jack Ruby" Panel
Date: November 16, 1991, JFK Symposium, Dallas Texas

Jerry Rose discussed "Ruby's Weekend" to start the panel discussion. Harvey and Norma Jean Bostick visited the Carousel Club on November 16. Next morning, Ruby sent a telegram to the couple, inviting them back to the club. On Thursday Nov. 21, Ruby received a phone call from a Connie Trammel, at student at S.M.U., in reference to a job at the club. When she found that out that the job entailed stripping, she turned it down. That night, Larry Myers, a friend of Ruby's from Chicago, joined the club owner for dinner. On Friday Nov. 22, Julia Mercer saw Ruby driving a truck stopped in front of the grassy knoll, about an hour and a half before the assassination. At 12:30 that day, he was in the offices of the Dallas Morning News, or, according to Vicki Adams, a TSBD employee, was in Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting. After the assassination, Tom Tilson saw Ruby pick people up and head for Fort Worth. Finally, Seth Cantor saw him at Parkland Hospital. The night of Nov. 22, hewent to a synagogue and saw a woman named Leona. Later, he went to the DPD and tried to give sandwiches out to the police. When informed that the police didn't need them, he asked to go into the building to look up the phone number of a local radio station, to see if the employees there could use the sandwiches. This is when he happens to run into the Oswald press conference. He then finishes the night off by going back to his club and having a conversation with a person named Olsen. A person from England named Coleman was also there.

Mary Ferrell continued the panel discussion by opening with the fact that Jack Ruby was an FBI informant in 1959. His income from this would be on his income tax returns. If we look at his "miscellaneous income", it did indeed increase after 1959. Mrs. Ferrell suggested that he put this informant money under this column in his tax returns. On October 10 While Oswald was in Russia, Ruby was dismissed from his informant job by the FBI for being unproductive.

In 1949, Ruby was held for murder in Chicago, but there was not enough evidence to hold him. This murder led to the introduction of Jimmy Hoffa to the midwest gang.

Wally Weston told Gaeton Fonzi about Ruby's trip to Cuba, and his visit with Ruby in jail after he shot Oswald.

Finally, Mary Ferrell related a story about Frank Christianik, who worked at Bell Helicopter with Mr. Paine. The Christianik's went to an ACLU meeting, and then completed the evening with Jack Ruby at the Carousel Club. Mrs. Ferrell submitted that these two activities were a first time endeavor for the Christianiks.

John Davis continued with "An overall picture of Jack Ruby." Ruby's murder of Oswald should tell us of one of the forces involved in the assassination, as it was a "classic Mafia rubout of a witness." Mr. Davis then went on to explain Organized Crime's involvement. He started by stating that J. Edgar Hoover knew that Ruby had connections to the Mafia but never told the Warren Commission. Ruby had deals going with illegal slot machines, prostitution, arms to Cuba, all given the blessings of Carlos Marcello.

In 1978, the HSCA found that Ruby had connections with persons such as Civello, Campisi brothers, Pecora and Caracci. All of these men were in turn connected to Marcello.

Ruby had connections all over the country in cities such as L.A., Las Vegas, Chicago, and the state of Florida. He called all of these locations one month prior to the assassination.

Jack Ruby and the Dallas Police Department were on amiable terms with each other, and Ruby knew at least fifty police officers on a first name basis. He arranged loans, provided prostitutes, and constantly did favors for the men in blue. This connection was very useful to the assassination conspirators after Oswald was still alive and arrested. He now became deeply involved in the conspiracy when he was told to execute Oswald. Actually, Ruby didn't have a choice, as he was desperate for money to pay off back taxes of $40,000.00 to the IRS, and he had to allow himself to become more deeply involved by carrying out the contract on Oswald. Mr. Davis believes that the conspirators wanted Oswald flown out of the country, or killed.

The author spoke of the 1988 documentary by Jack Anderson which revealed a Secret Service party in Fort Worth on the night/morning of Nov. 21,22. The President's security group partied at a club called the Cellar Door, and Pat Kirkwood, the owner's son, stated that Ruby sent his strippers to the party, and it lasted until about 5:30 a.m., Nov 22.

George Evica read his prepared text to the audience, and it focused on Jack Ruby as the key. Mr. Evica reported about a meeting that took place at a Love Field cocktail lounge in 1959. In attendance at this meeting were Ruby, McWillie, Fox, McLean, David McCord. Business interests were discussed but the main reason for the reunion was to talk about the Cuban problem,

i.e., Fidel Castro. A one million dollar price tag was put on a contract for Castro's assassination. The Bay of Pigs result enraged the Mafia against Kennedy, as their drug flow from Sicily - Cuba - United States was hampered by Castro. It didn't help Kennedy's image with the Mafia when it learned that the President was moving towards reconciliation with Castro.